

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 01579 061743Z

22

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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COME-00 EB-07 /065 W

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R 061710Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2856

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: STORY ON LOCKHEED BRIBERY OF GOM OFFICIALS

1. A BYLINE STORY PUBLISHED IN INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR ON FEB 6 CITES AT LEAST PORTIONS OF A REPORT MADE PUBLIC BY THE "SENATE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, CHAIRED BY SENATOR FRANK CHURCH." THE STORY INDICATES THAT A MEXICAN ARMY COLONEL (UNNAMED) REPRESENTING A MEXICAN AIR FORCE GENERAL (UNNAMED) FIRST DEMANDED A \$100,000 BRIBE AND EVENTUALLY RECEIVED \$75,000 IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF A 1.9 MILLION DOLLAR JET STAR TO THE MEXICAN AIR FORCE. THE PUBLISHED REPORT INDICATES THAT LOCKHEED CONFIRMED TO ITS SATISFACTION THAT THE COLONEL DID IN FACT REPRESENT THE AIR FORCE GENERAL. THE MAJOR PORTION OF EXCELSIOR STORY CONSISTS OF A LONG AND DETAILED DISCUSSION BY A LOCKHEED OFFICIAL CONCERNING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOCKHEED AND ITS "ADVISOR" IN MEXICO CITY, FELIX VIVAS (APPARENTLY VIVAS WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE JET STAR TRANSACTION BECAUSE OF HIS ABSENCE FROM THE COUNTRY BUT NEVERTHELESS DEMANDED FULL PAYMENT OF HIS COMMISSION). THE STORY CITES ONE SECTION OF THE REPORT AS A TRANSLATION OF A LETTER (PRESUMABLY TO LOCKHEED) OF JUNE 6, 1963 FROM A GENERAL SUAREZ E. SUAREZ (RETIRED MEXICAN AIR FORCE OFFICER) AS FOLLOWS: "I WISH TO ADD THAT I CONSIDER IT OF

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 01579 061743Z

GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THERE SHOULD BE INCLUDED OFFICIALLY

OR NOT THE AMOUNT OF AT LEAST \$100,000 SUBJECT TO
VERTIFICATION (SIC) FOR EXPEDITING THE VARIOUS AUTHORIZA-
TIONS, PAY ORDERS, OVERCOMING THE RESISTENCE, ETC. WITHIN
THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICES WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE IN
THIS PURCHASE OPERATION AS WELL AS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
PRESIDENCY."

2. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF THE DELICATE (IF NOT EXPLOSIVE)
NATURE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN TO WHAT
EXTENT THE EXCELSIOR STORY EDITS THE CITED REPORT OR THE
COMMENTS OR ITS BYLINE REPORTER. WE HAVE AS YET HAD NO
REACTION FROM GOM OFFICIALS OR OTHERS. WE EXPECT REACTION
WILL BE FORTHCOMING.
JOVA

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NNN

Message Attributes

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